

DANEEN WARDROP

Counterpoint

Animals are the originators of music and the true instructors. Humans probably learned music from animals, most likely from birds.

*—Temple Grandin, *Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior**

No way to thank them.

Bathe in finches

singing fugues with each other.

Tag! the child says,

passing on the touch

and the *it*.

Our timing as *it*. Robins

feed morning to a pinking sky— My

vertebrae, each,

tune to sound-slice then sound-slice.

This is how we stand.

—for Devan